

Red Hot Mamas performed at the 54th Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., on ABC's "Good Morning America" and "Nightline" programs, at Philadelphia's Independence Day Parade; Hershey, Pennsylvania's Centennial Anniversary Parade; the Fiesta Bowl Parade in Tempe, Arizona; the Holiday Bowl Parade in San Diego; the Seafair Parade in Seattle and many more. Many of their performances have raised money for various charities. They soon will be traveling to England to perform in London's New Year's Day Parade—the world's largest. Once again they will be spreading the word about their beautiful home state of Idaho, and spreading joy in the process. I want to thank these unique, fun-loving ladies and let them know their efforts are appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL RICE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 11, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Abigail Rice from Durango, CO. Abi's life was recently cut short in a tragic accident. As her family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate to call her tremendous contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our Nation.

Abi was an excellent student. A member of the Dean's List at Colorado State University, she was majoring in Natural Sciences. Abi was also a member of the PreMedica Club, and the Air Force ROTC. She had plans to attend medical school following graduation and her dream was to serve her country in the United States Air Force as a flight surgeon.

Abi also excelled in athletics. She was a High School Barrel Racing State Champion, an accomplished participant in 4-H, and a co-captain of Colorado State's Varsity Trap and Skeet Team.

Despite Abi's many academic and athletic talents, those who knew her well say that her greatest attribute was her loving and caring personality. Abi had an infectious love of life and her many friends and family will miss her deeply.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Abigail Rice. Abi was an amazing young woman and my heart goes out to her family and friends during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING KYLE D. SNYDER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle D. Snyder, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the

three years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 40 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, and Chaplain Aide. Kyle has also received the honor of Arrow of Light, is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, and is a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kyle planned and built ten blue birdhouses and one wood duck house. He then placed them along a nature trail and the pond at Riverview Park in Platte City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle D. Snyder for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JIM L. RIDLING OF MONT- GOMERY, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim L. Ridling of Montgomery, Alabama, on the occasion of his retirement as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Southern Guaranty, a part of Winterthur Insurance Company.

Jim was born and raised in Arkansas. He began his professional career as a Management Trainee with Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies in 1967. By 1984, he was Executive Vice President of United States Operations. In 1987, he traded his ownership in Fireman's Fund for ownership in Southern Guaranty Insurance Company, then a subsidiary of Fireman's Fund, and moved to Montgomery, Alabama, as President and CEO of Southern Guaranty.

Throughout his business career, Jim Ridling has been involved in varied professional organizations. He is a member of the International Insurance Society and the National Association of Independent Insurers. He is a past member of the University of Alabama School of Business' Board of Advisors; the Advisory Board of the University of Arkansas Business School; and a graduate of Stanford University's Inaugural Leadership Effectiveness Studies Program. Currently, he is a member of the School of Business Advisory Council for Troy State University.

Jim Ridling continues to be very much involved in his community. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Montgomery Air Force Association; a member of the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama; a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of their Military Council; and a member of the Montgomery Area Committee of 100. Jim is also President of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Ballet; a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and a Boy Scouts Board of Director.

I congratulate Jim Ridling for his accomplishments and his willingness to share of himself in service to his new adopted state. On the special occasion of his retirement celebra-

tion on November 20, I wish him, his lovely wife Cathy and their two daughters, Erin and Hannah, the very best in the future.

FREEDOM FOR NORMANDO HERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform this Congress about Normando Hernández González, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Hernández, age 32, and the director of the College of Independent Journalists, has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of Castro's villainous regime. As a journalist who exposed the ruthless repression and failed policies of Cuba's totalitarian dictator, Mr. Hernández has been continuously harassed by Castro's political police. He was detained and released miles from his home on at least two occasions and his telephone has been cut off since June 15, 2002.

Men and women who seek truth and freedom are the enemies of Castro's totalitarian dictatorship. On March 24, 2003, Mr. Hernández was sentenced to 25 years in the Cuban totalitarian gulag. According to the sham indictment "He prepared reports . . . in which he attacked the health system (and) the education provided in this country, questioned the justice system, tourism, culture, agriculture. . . ."

Mr. Hernández, for the "crime" of reporting truth instead of government mandated lies, is languishing in Castro's gulag. According to a statement by his wife, Yarai Reyes, on September 3, 2003, the food in the gulag was often rotten, Mr. Hernández had no electricity in his cell and was being refused all medical care.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, in his address at the 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy, President George W. Bush said "Communism, and militarism and rule by the capricious and corrupt are the relics of a passing era. And we will stand with these oppressed peoples until the day of their freedom finally arrives." President Bush went on to state, "The advance of freedom is the calling of our time; it is the calling of our country."

My Colleagues, I applaud President Bush's stirring remarks and I ask that we answer his call to advance freedom by demanding liberty for every prisoner of conscience. Today I ask the entire Congress to cry with one, united, voice for the immediate release of Normando Hernández González.

RECOGNIZING BRETT MICHAEL BABCOCK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brett Michael Babcock, a very special young man who has exemplified the